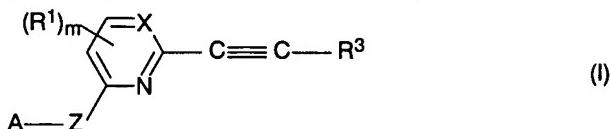


APPENDIX II:

THE AMENDED CLAIMS (clean version of all claims):

1. (currently amended) A method of combating undesired plant growth at a locus, comprising application to the locus of an effective amount of at least one compound of formula (I)



wherein

X represents N or CR²;

R¹ each independently represent a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkinyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy group or a haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano, nitro or SF₅ group; or -S(O)_p-R⁴, in which p is 0, 1 or 2, and R⁴ represents an alkyl or haloalkyl group; or -NR⁵R⁶, in which R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl or aryl group, or R⁷O-CY-, in which R⁷ represents an alkyl group, and Y represents O or S;

R² represents a hydrogen atom or has the meaning given for R¹;

R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a formyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, trihydrocarbylsilyl or aryl group, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

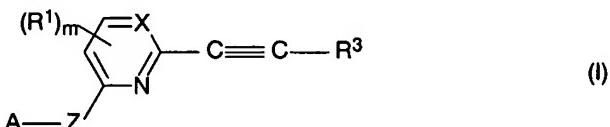
A represents an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group or an optionally substituted thienyl group;

Z represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; and

m is 0, 1 or 2;

or an agronomically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.

2. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

X represents N or CR²;

R¹ each independently represent a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkinyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, al-

koxyalkoxy group or a haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano, nitro or SF₅ group; or -S(O)_p-R⁴, in which p is 0, 1 or 2, and R⁴ represents an alkyl or haloalkyl group; or -NR⁵R⁶, in which R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl or aryl group, or R⁷O-CY-, in which R⁷ represents an alkyl group, and Y represents O or S;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or has the meaning given for R^1 ;

R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a formyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, trihydrocarbylsilyl or aryl group, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

A represents an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group or an optionally substituted thiaryl group;

Z represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; and

m is 1 or 2;

or an agronomically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.

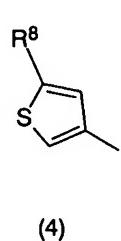
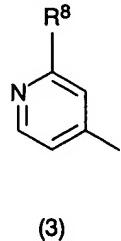
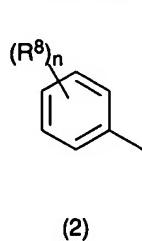
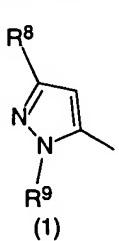
3. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein Z represents an oxygen atom.

4. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R³ represents a phenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or alkyl or haloalkyl groups.

5. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein R³ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₂₋₆ alkenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms and/or C₁₋₄ alkoxy groups.

6. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein A represents an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl or pyrazolyl group.

7. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 6, wherein A represents a group selected from formulae (1), (2), (3), and (4):



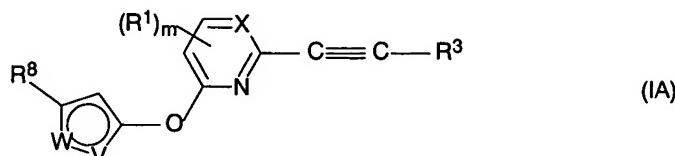
wherein

R^8 each independently represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group;

R^9 represents an alkyl group; and

n represents an integer of 1 to 5.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 which is of formula IA



wherein

R^3 represents a formyl group or an alkyl, alkenyl group or an optionally substituted aryl or 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

$W-V$ represents $N-CH$, $S-CH$, $N-CH-CH$, $CH-CH-CH$ or $N-NR^9$;

m is 1;

R^8 represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group; and

R^9 represents an alkyl group.

9. (currently amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyridine;
 4-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-6-methyl-2-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyrimidine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-6-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyridine;
 4-methoxy-2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-6-(2-phenylethynyl)-pyridine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(2-trimethylsilylethynyl)-pyridine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethynyl]-pyridine;
 2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethynyl]-pyridine;
 6-ethynyl-2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethylpyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-pyridine;

2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(4-methylpent-1-yn-3-enyl)-pyridine;
2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(3,3-diethoxyprop-1-ynyl)-pyridine; and
2-(1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-pyrazol-5-yloxy)-4-methyl-6-(2-formylethynyl)-pyridine.

10. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of the compound of formula I according to claim 2, which comprises reacting a respective compound of formula II,

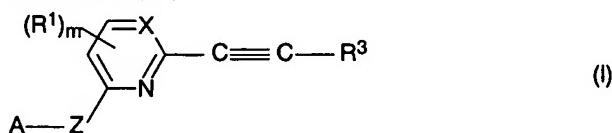


in which L represents a suitable leaving group, with a compound of formula III.



in which Met represents a hydrogen or metal atom or an alkylmetal group.

11. (currently amended) A herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound of formula I according to claim 2 and a carrier.
 12. (original) A composition as claimed in claim 11, comprising at least two carriers, at least one of which is a surface-active agent.
 13. (canceled)
 14. (new) A herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 9 and a carrier.
 15. (new) A compound of formula (I)



wherein

X represents N or CR^2 ;

R¹ each independently represent a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkinyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkoxy group or a haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano, nitro or

SF_5 group; or $-\text{S}(\text{O})_p\text{-R}^4$, in which p is 0, 1 or 2, and R^4 represents an alkyl or haloalkyl group; or $-\text{NR}^5\text{R}^6$, in which R^5 and R^6 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, aralkyl or aryl group, or $\text{R}^7\text{O-CY-}$, in which R^7 represents an alkyl group, and Y represents O or S;

R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or has the meaning given for R^1 ;

R^3 represents a formyl group or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, trihydrocarbylsilyl or aryl group, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

A represents an optionally substituted aryl group, an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group or an optionally substituted thienyl group;

Z represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; and

m is 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso, that

bis-[2-(2-trimethylsilylethynyl)pyrid-6-yloxy]-1,3-benzene and bis-[2-(3,3-dimethyl-3-hydroxyprop-1-ynyl)-pyrid-6-yloxy]-1,3-benzene are excluded;

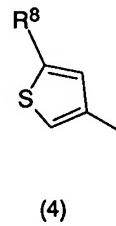
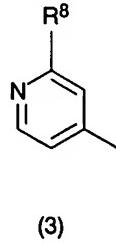
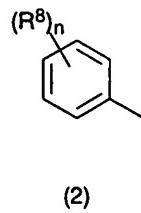
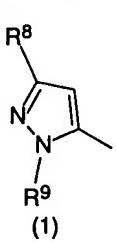
or an agronomically acceptable salt or N-oxide thereof.

16. (new) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R^3 represents a phenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or alkyl or haloalkyl groups.

17. (new) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-6} alkenyl group being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms and/or C_{1-4} alkoxy groups.

18. (new) A compound according to claim 15, wherein A represents an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl or pyrazolyl group.

19. (new) A compound according to claim 18, wherein A represents a group selected from formulae (1), (2), (3), and (4):



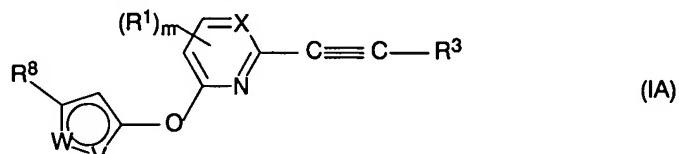
wherein

R⁸ each independently represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group;

R⁹ represents an alkyl group; and

n represents an integer of 1 to 5.

20. (new) A compound according to claim 15 which is of formula IA



wherein

R³ represents a formyl group or an alkyl, alkenyl group or an optionally substituted aryl or 5- or 6-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaromatic group;

W-V represents N-CH, S-CH, N-CH-CH, CH-CH-CH or N-NR⁹;

m is 0 or 1;

R⁸ represents a halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy or thioalkyl group; and

R⁹ represents an alkyl group.